

A LETTER

TO THE

Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT,

ON

THE MEANS OF RELIEVING

THE

PRESENT SCARCITY,

AND

PREVENTING THE DISEASES

THAT ARISE FROM

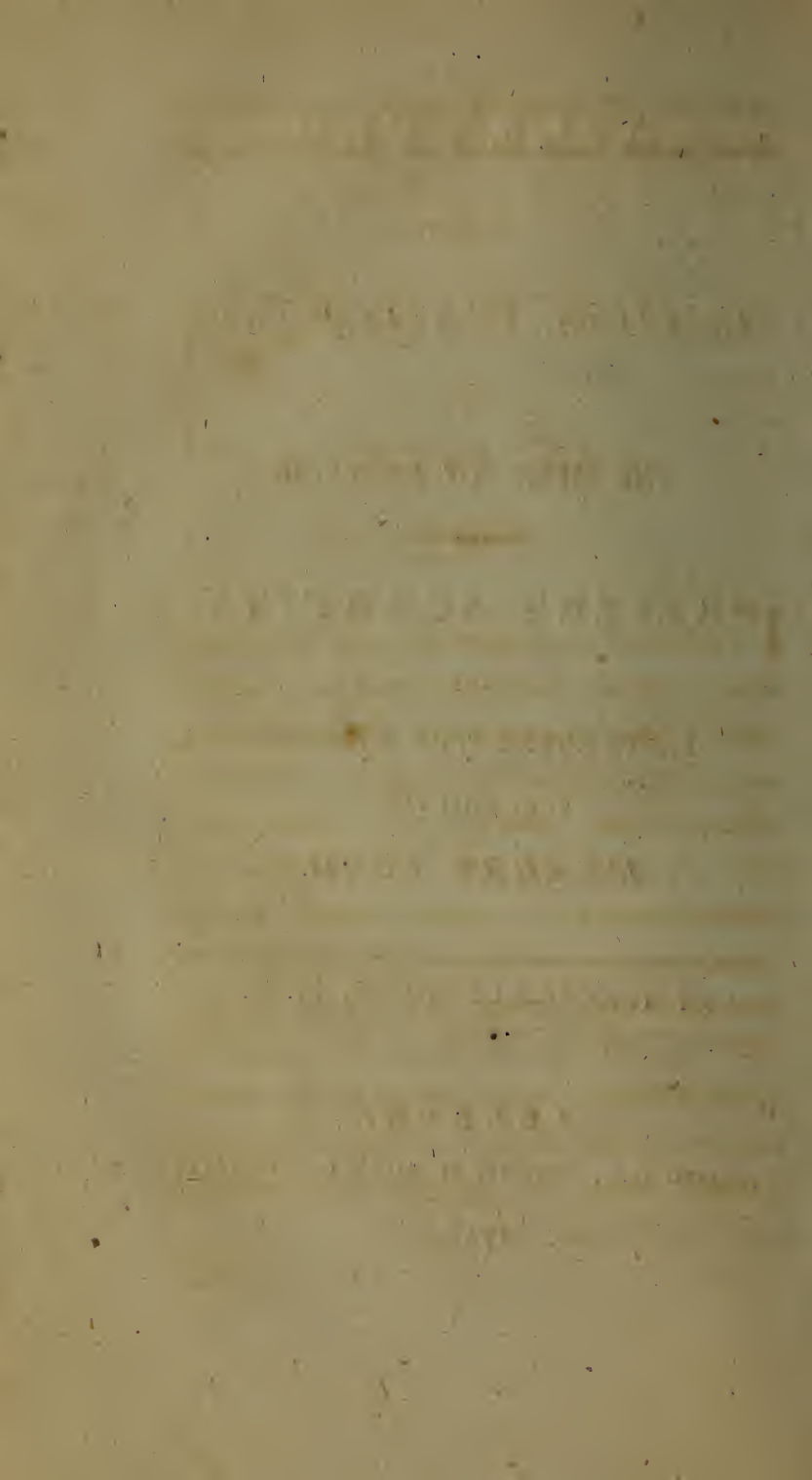
MEAGRE FOOD.

BY THOMAS BEDDOES, M. D.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

1796.



A
L E T T E R

TO

Mr. PITT.

S I R,

I CANNOT at present pay you my personal respects without much inconvenience ; and if I could, I have no certainty of a patient hearing, much less of a gracious reception. Under this difficulty I have recourse to the ordinary expedient of projectors, who busy themselves in cutting out work for a prime minister. I write to you, but not privately. You and your domestic secretary, perhaps, treat country communications with little ceremony. If the address should induce you to look into my Letter, my end will be so far attained. If not, others may partially adopt, and improve upon, what is totally neglected by you.

Men's measures, I think, must needs be as their views. He who is blind to the future, will be for ever stumbling against obstacles in the road of life: and he who follows false lights, will experience the fate of the traveller bewildered by the midnight meteor of the marsh. He will find himself, when he is weary, and can hold on no longer, at a greater distance than at first, from the object of his pursuit. It may be questioned, whether the great attainment of foresight has been manifested in many particulars, with regard to the essential business of subsistence, by that administration of which you, Sir, are the mouth-piece. At the commencement of the war, I dare say, you entertained not the most distant apprehension of a dearth. In devoting the enemy to the pains and penalties of hunger, you assuredly took no measures to secure plenty at home. You knew, however, that the common annual produce of our soil has not of late equalled our common consumption. You could not be ignorant, that the recent inquiries of the Privy Council into the difference between the quantity of corn imported, and the quantity exported, had terminated in this uncomfortable

conclu-

conclusion. Had you no idea, that the menace thrown out against the French, would incite that impetuous people to an eager scramble for the staff of life? Perhaps, Sir, they were to be shut out from every field of mercantile competition, by that wooden wall, by which, in despite of nature, you projected to encompass France. Who knows but you imagined that this exclusion would create a glut in the foreign corn-markets? "Then," you thought, "we shall be lords of all the granaries upon earth. Our custom will be every-where courted; and our purveyors may swagger in some countries, like our envoys in others." This concatenation of consequences may be worthy of the sagacious glassman in the *Spectator*; but will it pass in the school of Adam Smith? among whose disciples you have occasionally been ambitious to enrol yourself.

To make provision for the worst, is a maxim, which, in private life, no man is easily excused for neglecting; and in judging statesmen, self-preservation requires, that public opinion should be still more severe. Did it never, Sir, occur to you, that unproductive years were to be guarded against?

against? or did this contingency escape you at the moment you entered upon measures, which unavoidably enhanced the national demand for produce? Did you reckon upon Nature as your sure ally, and place all her vicissitudes on the creditor side of the account? Were the rains, the winds, and the frosts, never to be at cross purposes with your political preachers? What miscalculation on your part! what disappointment on theirs! It is grievous to think of the pulpit-eloquence, which unkindly seasons have blasted, as it was budding in idea. And considering your own propensity to parliamentary preaching, who but must be concerned to find the most desirable of texts—*God's declared wrath against the enemy*—perpetually wanting to your piety?

The *forites*, which the event would have justified, may be stated thus:

*The rest of Europe produces less ;
 The rest of Europe consumes more ;
 We are going to consume more ;
 We may produce less ;*

A sup-

A supply from the Levant, or America, will become more and more difficult to procure ;

Therefore, We ought to provide in time.

But not a link in this long chain of logic hitched upon your understanding ; and when the unexpected calamity arrived, your exertions did not discredit your foresight : your hands were as idle as your thoughts. The French, with ready money chinking in their purses, bought up the American crops as they were growing, in the winter of 1794 and 1795. They have since been diligently ransacking the East, as well as the West. Their government, determined not to be overtaken by the greatest of calamities, every day

Trahit quodcunque potest, et addit acervo.

What did you do?—Nothing that is apparent, certainly nothing that was effectual. One of your worthy coadjutors, however, when questioned respecting the state of provisions, did what he could to lull the Public into the slumber of false security, by a declaration ignorantly or purposely false. What you have attempted, since the last harvest once more disappointed you,

you, is, I believe, worthy of such a beginning. But whatever you may expect from your Association to lessen the consumption of wheaten flour in the more opulent families, this you will not deny, *that nothing can justify a relaxation in our endeavours to save and increase our stock of provisions.*

The nature of animal wants, the ill consequence of leaving them unsatisfied, and the effects of excessive indulgence, present themselves frequently and forcibly to medical men. In the pride and security of ordinary plenty, we are daily accustomed to see human creatures in that situation with which a season of scarcity alone familiarizes others. It is not possible that these scenes of distress should fail to awaken the idea of a general famine; and if we are a little habituated to reflection, we shall push on our thoughts; when we get upon subjects of general concern, we shall cast about in search of some remedy for this disaster. The observation of nature, the experiments of science, and the relations of travellers, furnish many materials for the speculation. In order to induce others to assist in prosecuting it to some effect, I lately resolved to make public the small
sum

sum of my information on this subject in a country newspaper. The following is the first of an intended short series of letters: it is the only one that has been printed. I lay it before you, as containing the text upon which I purpose to enlarge.

To the Printers of the ———.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ THE high price of the necessaries of life is notorious; and a late vote of the House of Commons proclaims the danger of severer calamities than we have yet endured. It cannot therefore be required, by the most misplaced delicacy, that those in the secret should communicate only by shrugs and whispers, keeping as much as possible the public situation from the multitude. *Is it practicable, by introducing new articles of consumption, to increase the stock of provisions?* This question every person of reflection will ask himself. Those who are ignorant of the true cause may wonder why measures have not been adopted by authority to solve it with all dispatch. I do not choose to pledge myself for the economical success of experiments that

B

answer

answer on a small scale ; nor am I certain that we can suddenly adopt the practices of distant regions : but I believe there are reasonable grounds for the institution of an inquiry, now particularly urgent. Articles, from which wholesome and savoury food may be extracted, are, I imagine, thrown away, or else converted to very inferior uses. This is one fact that deserves to be ascertained.—Further, it must be known to all who have been at the smallest pains to study the poor, that for want of food sufficiently nourishing (even where the quantity is not deficient) they drag on a languid existence, contract various disorders, and are cut off by a premature death. Where there is food enough to *fill the belly* without making good blood and firm flesh, means of improving the quality may, I conceive, be found, were a field of observation properly opened to competent inquirers. Possibly, something might be immediately devised to prevent the evil from growing much greater than the standard of common years.

“ Investigations of this nature will, I fear, require more exertion than can be reckoned upon
by

by those who know how indolently selfish we all are, when we are not personally touched or threatened. They might be undertaken on two conditions : if a moderate contribution could be collected from the rich, and if a few persons acquainted with chemistry and medicine would unite with a few others of leisure and activity to conduct a train of simple experiments.

“ It requires no abstruse information to be apprized, that scarcity and disease are coupled by a law of human nature. Where extreme want is felt only in this and that dwelling, you will have the concomitant disorders dispersedly ; but when extreme want is general, the general prevalence of pestilential maladies may be apprehended ; and, as Arbuthnot says of a fatal contagion ascribed to defective nutriment, ‘ The manner of spreading will be gradual ; it will first seize houses, then streets, next quarters of the town, and, at last, like an universal conflagration, the whole city.’

“ Cold is the great ally of hunger in the business of destruction. A human creature, *starved* in all the forms, will become the prey of an infection, which the constitution of one well-fed

and well-clothed would repel without injury. The means of new assistance to the poor in the article of clothing, are at hand ; and if I had arguments to determine the public will, much might be done. By the female part of many genteel families no small labour is bestowed upon works of elegance, often with a view only to amusement. Now if the operations of taste could be suspended at the instance of charity, and this labour be transferred from shewy trifles to substantial necessaries, it might be demonstrated by an easy calculation that the mere difference of employment, without the advance of an additional penny, would preserve thousands from death, and redeem tens of thousands from suffering. Would Mr. Burke, or even Miss Hannah More, write an exhortation to the purpose, the manufacture of fringe and varnished tables might give way to that of worsted stockings and flannel jackets ; nay, part of the time devoted to drawing, music, and Casino, be for the season appropriated to doing good. After allowing for the unpleasant sensations attendant on the acquisition of every new habit, one may almost venture to promise the
fashion-

fashionable world increase of amusement from the change. Parties might go on, as heretofore: the object indeed of visiting would be different. But the ladies in a short time would find great entertainment in shewing and examining improvements in charitable manufactures; and, I have no doubt, they would come to talk with as much interest about fashions for the poor, as fashions for themselves.

“I would have more unfolded the ideas suggested in the former part of this letter, had I not been apprehensive of taking up too much of your paper.”

Now, Sir, in looking round for substitute articles of subsistence, is it not possible to discover, in the materials consumed by other animals, some that will serve our purpose? You know, that every ounce of beef contains the quintessence of many tons of grass, hay, and turnips, together with part, or the whole, of several other vegetables. If by any cheap culinary process these productions of the earth could be made fit food for man, it is evident that our pressing wants would not only be relieved, but

we should have provision for a boundless increase of population. To those whose thoughts never straggle out of the broad and beaten track of reality, this project will appear like one of the most extravagant flights of insanity: but I offer it without fear of ridicule to your consideration. Your mind is familiar with inventions, which, when brought to bear, are beheld as conquests of art, almost over impossibility itself. No former British minister has shewn such sagacity in the discovery, or such liberality in the patronage, of talents. An ancient critic has pronounced warm admiration of Cicero a sign of proficiency in the art of oratory; and it seems to be generally agreed, at home and abroad, that, to be slow in applauding Mr. Pitt, as a statesman, where it does not proceed from wickedness, is a sure test of stupidity. When you engaged in your hazardous enterprise against the French, with what enthusiasm did every man of genius spring forward to assist you?—No such ardour of emulation has been felt in Britain since Henry V. And if the recent glories of your administration should become the subject of an epic poem, one

book

book should be devoted to the enumeration of those heroes of chemic and mechanic science that thronged to your standard. Not one man of note for inventive powers was seen lagging; not one ingenious head, out of which the ideas did not fly to meet your purposes. Hence, under your auspices, the military art has received greater improvement in two short years, than in all the ages that intervened between the time of Julius Cæsar, and the day when you set forward

“To match your great progenitor in war.”

The enemy, meanwhile, stood oppressed by your superiority of resources; and, notwithstanding their reputation for novelty of device, all their contrivances for offence and defence added together, will not make out a sum of ingenuity equal to that which was manifested by the first fabricator of a mouse-trap.

Peace bears the same testimony to your discriminating abilities. I defy the Royal Society collected, to enumerate the advantages which the arts that adorn, and those that serve humanity, owe to persons brought forward by you. Our expectations in a time of distress, therefore,
from

from your acknowledged power to evoke that species of talent which the moment demands, cannot be too exalted. The difficulty of a scheme becomes a reason for proposing it to you : and I hardly doubt of your success in procuring the conversion of fodder into meat for man.

There is an undertaking, the converse of this, in which I hope to persuade you to engage, when the pressure of affairs is diminished. It is perfectly easy of execution, but not to be accomplished off hand. It consists simply in dieting cattle on such substances as afford substantial food for christians. All herbivorous domestic animals may, I am inclined to fancy, be well supported on potatoes. For several winters, two horses, within my knowledge, and often under my observation, were fed with this root, eating little hay. They lived in good health; and were, I believe, equal to any reasonable work. They became very fond of the potatoe.

You perceive the advantage of a stock of eatables destined for beasts, but applicable without any change of his habits to man. The artificers that administer to luxury, have been
some-

sometimes considered as a body in reserve for the purposes of war. Crops equally esculent by quadrupeds, and by the featherless biped of Linnæus, would constitute a reserve against famine ; and if this idea were realized, we should never suffer from that calamity. A classical writer has said, that he who can rear two blades of grass where one grew before, is preferable to all politicians. For my part, I think, that he who can substitute potatoes in the place of grass and clover, should take precedence of the multiplier of grass.

Had I continued to address myself to the printer of the Bristol Mercury, I should have suppressed these suggestions. They can only be realized by power in conjunction with genius ; that is, Mr. PITT, by statesmen like you. The following practices are more commensurate with private means and ordinary talents.

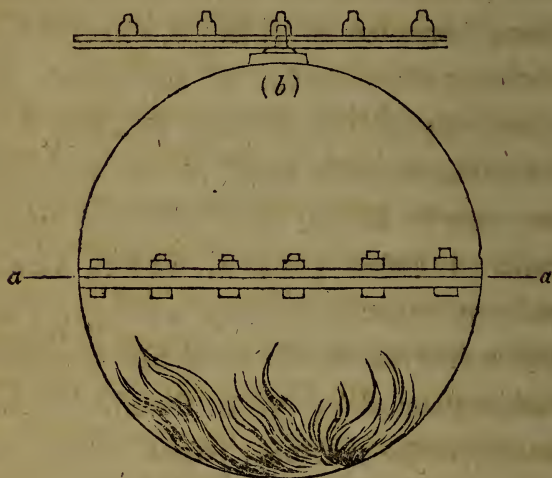
You must know, that some few among the poor extract broth from mere bones, by dint of long-continued boiling : but the large and hard bones of adult animals yield to the most pertinacious decoction but a small proportion of their jelly. If they were pounded or ground, they

would afford much more nutriment, for chemical agency is as the surface of the acting materials. But there is a method perhaps still more effectual; and for the practicability of which I can vouch. It is to increase the heat, and consequently the solvent power of water by pressure.

The following account I owe to a friend, whose name, I am sorry, I am not permitted to mention. His authority would weigh with you. He possesses great comprehension of mind; and is probably as conversant with the labouring part of our fellow-subjects as any man in England, a little army of them being always in his pay. Witnessing their condition, and the short allowance of necessaries to which the wife and children were often reduced, he devised and executed a scheme, which, I dare say, you will have pleasure in seeing described by himself. His words are these: “ I will now tell you all
 “ I know, and can recollect, respecting my
 “ *broth-machine*, as I used to call it; by which
 “ I made daily two hundred quarts of very good
 “ wholesome palatable soup for half-a-crown,
 “ exclusive of the expence of fire and labour—
 “ the

“ the latter very trifling. The substances used
 “ were generally the shin-bones of beef, with
 “ very little flesh adherent ; as also any of those
 “ bony parts of the beef which the butchers
 “ used to throw to the dogs before I bought
 “ them ; bones left in the family, either of beef,
 “ mutton, pork, or, in fine, of any animal. All
 “ except the shin-bones, were dissolved, so as
 “ not to retain their form ; the shin-bones did,
 “ but were so soft, as to be easily cut with a
 “ knife. I added potatoes, carrots, turnips,
 “ and any vegetable (except cabbage, which
 “ gave a disagreeable taste in the heat employed);
 “ barley, oatmeal, or groats, served to thicken,
 “ as well as the potatoes ; onions, parsley, and
 “ salt, were the seasoning ; and these materials,
 “ after stewing for from twelve to eighteen
 “ hours, formed, as I said before, a very good
 “ broth ; of which I often ate myself with plea-
 “ sure. I am sorry I cannot give you an accu-
 “ rate account of the heat, as I had no oppor-
 “ tunity of measuring it. As to the weight,
 “ which was constantly exerted on the steam,
 “ I can only form a probable conjecture : it was,
 “ at least, six atmospheres, or 84lb. upon the

“ square inch. You, perhaps, recollect the
 “ form of the vessel *. It consisted of two hol-
 “ low hemispheres of cast iron, two inches thick,
 “ and fastened together by strong screws thus :



“ set in brickwork to the line *a a*. The valve
 “ at (*b*) was loaded with a number of weights
 “ equal to 500lb. It was two and a half inches
 “ in diameter; the area, consequently, 4.8
 “ inches. As it several times blew the weights
 “ off, at that time there was exerted upon
 “ each square inch, +104lb. so that, I think, it
 “ is but moderate to suppose the medium

* I have often seen it. T. B.

“ pressure

“ pressure = six atmospheres, or 84lb. on the
 “ square inch, as before stated. If a thing of
 “ this kind was done again, the boiler should be
 “ furnished with a mercurial gage, by which
 “ the pressure might be easily ascertained; and
 “ danger avoided, by lessening the heat when
 “ the gage indicates too much pressure.”

Most large bones that escape dogs, go now,
 I suppose, as usual, to the distillers. You, Sir,
 have rescued grain and potatoes out of their
 clutches—they will easily resign bones: so there
 can be no more difficulty in procuring the materials,
 than in cooking the broth. It must be thickened
 with barley. Mr. Dundas will tell you what a
 luxury barley broth is. The poor only need to
 taste, and they will certainly relish it. Their pre-
 judices will not be so restive as heretofore.

“ If I say A, I must say B;

“ And so go on to C and D.”

They are on bread partly of barley-meal, and
 may easily be trained on to barley-broth.

Is it not your duty to bring forward some
 regulation or agreement for saving barley? I
 wish oats and pease also to be brought into
 more

more general consumption. But barley, considering its quantity and quality, deserves the statesman's most serious attention. Supposing general parsimony should enable us to hold out till the usual time of harvest, how are you to be sure that the autumn of 1796 shall not be as unfavourable as the autumn of 1795 was favourable? Instead of having fine field-room, and being ready on the spot for the thresher and the miller, the next crop may be damaged and ill harvested; then old sound grain, to mix with the new, will be an invaluable treasure. And though this precaution should prove so far superfluous, need we be afraid of having too large a stock in hand? Is there any one who does not feel the advantage of saving as much stock to begin the next year with as possible?

Need I say, Sir, how barley may be saved? It may be saved by stopping or checking its great waste. It is as much wasted in the preparation of strong beer, as corn in the distillation of spirits. Whether it would be most advisable to prohibit by law the manufacture of beer of a strength exceeding six bushels of malt to the hoghead, or, by a voluntary association, to
try

try the influence of example, I leave to your determination; but admit and act upon the principle, *that the quantity of barley made into strong beer ought to be lessened*, and you will yet be a benefactor to Britain. A barley association will be of infinitely more use than your wheat association; because considerate people were already alarmed into parsimony of bread. But no idea of sparing barley has, I think, become general; and, I apprehend, few people are aware of the extensive utility of such a measure.

It is of consequence to the labouring man that his beer should be as nutritious as possible. In Oxfordshire we find beer differing widely in its qualities from the Shropshire beer. This observation holds with regard to several counties contiguous to those which I have named. The Oxfordshire beer is viscid and dark-coloured. A cup left all night is found glued by the spilt beer to the table. The Shropshire sort is thin and amber-coloured. I imagine the Oxfordshire, though unpalatable to strangers, to be the more *heartening*. When you examine the residuary *grains*, you find the Shropshire slippery
between

between the fingers; you may distinguish in them a substance resembling the white of egg coagulated, from which the Oxfordshire are free. In Shropshire it is the general custom to use boiling water for infusing the malt. In Oxfordshire they mix the water and malt cold, and afterwards apply heat. In the first case a nutritious matter is coagulated, which the gradually heated water, in the other way of brewing, dissolves, or rather holds diffused; for the want of transparency in the liquor shews the solution not to be perfect.

From the lessened use of strong beer there will result a consequence which ought not to be withheld from you. You have not the history of Harun al Raschid, and Giafar, his vizir, to learn. They no doubt were among the examples that inspired your youth with the great ambition to benefit mankind. It was, you know, their custom to take cognizance of Bagdad and its inhabitants in disguise. You do not, I believe, superintend the capital in person; but in every city you plant agents, upon whose vicarious diligence you rely for information, whether the people are in the enjoy-

enjoyment of that happiness, and in the practice of those virtues, which it is the object of your incessant cares to diffuse. I think it may be questioned, whether these, your inspectors, have acquainted you with the prevalence of a habit somewhat unseemly, and in no small degree pernicious. They may have been abashed into unseasonable silence by the dread of violating the purity of your ears. I myself, in mentioning this matter, feel like him who is obliged to express ideas of doubtful delicacy before women, whom he respects; but, Sir, concealment would be culpable: you ought to be told; and I will tell you in the words of a great author. Many of our laborious countrymen, Sir, are more than enough addicted to “large ingurgitation of “spirituous potation.” Whence arise to the toper himself,

Labefaction of health,
Deterioration of morals,
Dilapidation of house and home.

To his wife and young,
Spoliation,
Ejulation,
Emaciation.

D

I have

I have now, Sir, informed you of the evil; and into the bargain, furnished you, against your next oration, with an elegant assortment of words in —*ation*; for in such, according to Mr. Burke's affirmation, are your vocal organs accustomed to find supreme delectation.

I forbear, at present, to inquire whether your brain be a machine, with which it has pleased Providence to educe good out of evil: but if the habit above mentioned be evil, and if you neglect the present opportunity to attempt its extirpation, I think, so far, the answer can hardly be in the affirmative.

It has been suggested to me by an ingenious correspondent, that an infusion, or beer of hay, might be attempted. The same person mentions as possible resources, all roots (whether poisonous or not) that afford starch; for the noxious ingredient of such roots is, you know, daily dissipated in the West Indies. He likewise mentions the bark and tops of vegetables armed with prickles, as the gooseberry, furze, holly, hawthorn—all which animals eat greedily.

There is another inquiry highly curious and interesting, but requiring the most consummate
abilities

abilities for its conduct. You, however, as I have said before, know where to draw, at sight, upon abilities of any magnitude. The question to be determined is this: *Can any stimulating substances be added to poor aliment, without detriment to health in the long run, so as to give it greater power of nourishment?* The addition made to potatoes by families in extreme penury is common salt. A late medical writer has strongly condemned the use of this mineral in diet. Among the poor in Ireland, who have in general potatoes to satiety, I have seen numerous and dreadful examples of scrophulous swellings and ulcers. If, as I suspect, the females, with equal feeding, be the more afflicted of the two sexes, the fact would tend to shew, that in the human species the female has less original *irritability*, in the Hallerian signification of that term: but the prevalence of scrophula in Ireland furnishes proof that this diet, aided by such seasoning, is insufficient in that climate. The distribution of pilchards through the British dominions (which is prevented by an impolitic tax, intended to encourage the exportation of this valuable fish) would remedy the evil in plentiful years. In such years pilchards might be

afforded to the poor at a low rate, and would universally produce the same effect as in Cornwall; where, I imagine, they contribute much towards rendering the people robust. Between salt alone to season potatoes, and salted animal matter, I apprehend there can be no comparison.

If opium could be used without danger of inducing bad habits, could it be used to advantage? On long journies, and in their military incursions, the natives of the East Indies are known to appease the sense of hunger by this powerful drug. Opium, therefore, is to a certain degree capable of supplying the place of food: But how far does this capability extend? and how far may we venture to employ it for this purpose? It is well established by modern experiments and observations, that opium is a stimulant resembling wine. According to Dr. Darwin, whose doctrine (see his *Zoonomia*, vol. i.) is probably the most exact, the problem may be thus solved: Opium increases all animal action; it will, therefore, supply strength for a time, but this effect will not be permanent. It will expedite exhaustion, and more speedily induce debility than if nothing were used, unless food be taken to supply the increased

increased action. It operates, in short, like a dram; and, as is customary on occasions in the East, may be repeated at short intervals for a few days; but, if it be continued, great weakness must ensue, and that rapidly, if no food be administered.

How far a small quantity may be taken by the Irish potatoe-eaters at, or instantly before the meal, is another question. Were it not for the great danger attending its introduction as an article of diet, it would be preferable to salt; and by those already scrophulous, a minute quantity had better be used instead. It is probable, however, that some seasoning for poor food, which does not "increase the production of sensorial power," and at the same time promote the expenditure of this power, might be found. Between the Oriental spices, and the garlic of the French, there is great choice. An obstacle to the introduction of that seasoning which may have the best title to supplant salt, may be apprehended in the prejudices and habits of the people: but is this, Sir, a reason why we should not immediately set about to ascertain which that best seasoning is? It cannot be adopted before it is known. The seeds of benefit

fit to the human race have generally been sown ages before any fruit became ripe for gathering.

Although the most essential part of what I propose may be practised with hardly any perceptible change in the diet of the people, I am afraid there is a principle which will go far towards counteracting my best endeavours. This principle is the insensibility of men to evils, the opposite of those under which they themselves labour. In a dramatic poem, which you perhaps never read, the business turns upon the violent effect of extreme danger from fire, upon the imagination of a young woman. Soon after the accident, her father returns from a long peregrination in the East; and during their first interview, the daughter thus pours forth her feelings:

——— My father, you must far away
O'er the Euphrates, Tigris, Jordan, and
What waters else I know not. Ere the flames
Encompas'd me so close, how often have I
Trembled for you! But since then, to drown
Has seem'd refreshment, balm, revival.

Upon this principle I am apprehensive of a certain condition of the human animated machine, as exceedingly unfriendly to any vigorous efforts

efforts for the relief of the poor man's hunger in this season of his distress. To this state you, Mr. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, may be a stranger ; but it is unquestionably incident to the

“ Gentlemen of England who live at home in ease ;”

though these gentlemen at the moment feel themselves by no means at their ease. For the whole inward man is in a state of contention : nor do his different members confine themselves within the bounds of verbal altercation, as in the fable of old Menenius. But the unmannerly stomach, by protruding forward, stretches the superincumbent skin so much, that the poor sufferer is obliged to unbrace his vest at the hazard of taking cold. Even this does not always procure complete relief ; but the lungs become straitened for room ; and he puffs and blows like a broken-winded horse drawing uphill. After the internal struggle has subsided, the tongue discovers a disagreeable propensity to cleave to the roof of the mouth, while the palms burn with so unkindly a heat, that it is unpleasant to bring them into contact. This feverish fulness may, I should fear, dispose those who are afflicted

flicted with it to imagine, that the cool and relaxed condition of hungry poverty is to be envied. Their alacrity may at least be repressed by this feeling; unless you, Sir, clap the spur of your oratory to their sluggish understandings. It has quickened them into a conception of your grand and beneficent foreign schemes. Let them not be allowed to overlook the smaller domestic duties. I shall not insist upon the importance of these, because I hope it will be enforced by you, to whom my confiding countrymen are much more disposed to listen.

I am, SIR,

With all due admiration,

Your most humble servant,

Clifton,

Jan. 12, 1796.

THOMAS BEDDOES.

ERRATA.

Page 8, line 8 from bottom—instead of push on, to the end of the sentence, read, not find it easy to withdraw from so interesting a subject, till we fall upon some remedy, or palliative, for the disaster.

Page 14, line 4, for reality, read, practice.

J. Holt White. 8
8

ALTERNATIVES

COMPARED,

&c.
